

Methods and Tools for Studying the Bible
Fant, pp. 35 – 54

PART 1: Types of Biblical Criticism (Analysis)

Textual

- Study of various manuscripts

Historical

- Historical accuracy
- Historical factors that shape the text

Source

- Study of the sources of the various texts

Form

- Study of the various forms of communication/text

Redaction

- Study how the editors of the text arranged the text
- Theological viewpoint, literary interests, life setting and how effects the author's arrangement of material

Canonical

- Study of how the canon was formed and the issues surrounding the selection of text as normative

Social-Scientific

- Situating the text in the social world they came from

Narrative

- Studies issues of plot, characters, setting, themes, narrator, point of view, <see page 49>

Reader Response

- How does the reader respond to text

PART 2: Related disciplines

Archaeology & Literary Parallels

PART 3: Tools & Reference Works

Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

Concordances

Commentaries

Atlases

Introductions

Theology of ...

No one methodology gives the whole story. Texts are multidimensional.

PART 4: Internet – Who wrote the material that is posted?